



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Pettis County 2024

Annual Report



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 **Extension**
University of Missouri
an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

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December 2024

Dear county commissioners, elected leaders and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

As we reflect on the past year, I want to express my deep gratitude for your support of MU Extension and for your partnership in enhancing the lives of Missourians.

Your support for MU Extension fuels Missouri's agriculture, strengthens families, prepares our youth and promotes the health, well-being and vitality of our communities. Over the past year, our programs have focused on addressing key needs throughout the state:

- **Expanding access to 4-H:** To make 4-H more accessible, we've introduced more in-school and after-school clubs, reducing barriers and creating opportunities for young Missourians to develop essential skills and leadership abilities.
- **Supporting agriculture and land stewardship:** We're addressing critical issues such as succession planning for family farms, rural mental health, agricultural business management and land stewardship. These initiatives are helping Missouri's farmers plan for the future and preserve the health of our land for future generations.
- **Advancing health initiatives:** Our team of community health field specialists, covering every region of the state, works directly with local leaders to assess health needs and bring UM System resources and expertise to these communities, supporting healthier lives and stronger communities.
- **Promoting economic development:** MU Extension is helping to create economic opportunities by working with individuals, supporting businesses in their growth and collaborating with communities to enhance local vibrancy. Through these efforts, we help bring new jobs, skills and possibilities to Missourians across the state.
- **Providing essential training:** Our continuing education programs prepare Missouri's firefighters and health care workers to meet the demands of their roles with the latest skills and knowledge, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve our communities.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you feel as proud as I do of the accomplishments we've achieved together. The dedication and professionalism of MU Extension's faculty and staff are inspiring, and I am grateful to work alongside them—and each of you—as we make Missouri a stronger, healthier and more vibrant place. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are serving Missouri by delivering the University *for* Missouri.

Warm regards,

Chad Higgins, PhD
Vice Chancellor, MU Extension and Engagement
Chief Engagement Officer, UM System

Who we are

Faculty and staff

Faculty housed in the Pettis County Office

Elaine Anderson
Extension Engagement Specialist

Sherol Bose
Administrative Assistant

Julie Carpenter
4-H Youth Program Associate

Maria "Monse" Montoya De Rivera ,
Nutrition Program Associate
Pettis County Community Partnership

Alexander Freeburger
Field Specialist in Health and Nutrition

Katharine Hanlon
Nutrition Program Associate

Billie Long
Volunteer - Master Gardener, Emeritus

Seton Miller
4-H Youth Program Associate – Career Readiness

Gene Schmitz
Field Specialist in Livestock

Additional faculty with assignments in Pettis

Amie Breshears
Field Specialist in Agricultural Business

Christina Edholm
Field Specialist in Human Development

Kim Hall
Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

Joni Harper
Field Specialist in Natural Resources

Travis Harper
Field Specialist in Agronomy

Kathi Mecham
Field Specialist in Horticulture

Small Business and Technology Development Center at State Fair Community College

Kelly Asbury

West Central Regional Director

Wayne Prewitt

Council members

Scott Applegate

Steve Beard

Mary Beatty

Fred Binder

Kevin Daniel

David Dick

Brad Elwell

Craig Guffin

Sue Guffin

Greg Harrell

Jane Henderson

Connie Koch

Israel Baeza, Appointed Commissioner

Rhiannon Foster, Appointed City of Sedalia

David McCoy, Appointed Farm Bureau



County executives

Matthew Vickrey, Chairman

Billie Long, Vice-chairman

Kay Sparks, Secretary

Jennifer Boatright, Treasurer

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income	
County Appropriations	88,964.00
Total Income	88,964.00
Expense	
Personnel Serv - Salaries & Wages	53,080.00
Payroll Expenses	11,338.00
Travel	3,276.00
Postage	600.00
Telephone Service	1500.00
Rent/Lease Space	7,760.00
Rent/Lease Equipment	1,600.00
Office Supplies	800.00
Janitorial Supplies	500.00
Utilities	3,700.00
Other Contract Services	2,200.00
Insurance	2,400.00
Repairs/Maintenance	100.00
Furniture/Equipment	110.00
Total Expense	<u>88,964.00</u>

Pettis County partners



Israel Baeza, Eastern Commissioner
Bill Taylor, Presiding Commissioner
Jim Marcum, Western Commissioner

MU Extension is a unique funding partnership.

Extension funding is a three-way partnership of federal, state and county government. Federal and state money, through the University of Missouri system, pay professional staff salaries, training costs, computers and communication equipment. County funds support the local office, secretarial and youth assistant salaries, staff mileage and council expenses.

The *Pettis* County Extension Council, faculty and staff would like to express our appreciation to the *Pettis* County Commissioners for their continued support of extension programs.



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to *Pettis* County Extension with a gift to be used immediately or as an endowment contribution for long term efforts. Monies put into the endowment are left forever to earn interest with the county office benefiting each year. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners.

Pettis County



UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

179 students

- 140 Undergraduates
- 39 Graduate and professional students
- 143 Full-time students
- 36 Part-time students
- 51 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2024)



County employees and retirees

71 people employed by UM

- 28 Campuses
- 40 MU Health Care (includes additional employees gained via the recent integration of Capital Region Medical Center)
- 3 UM System

22 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$3.6 million

UM state tax revenue: \$110,640

UM federal tax revenue: \$588,257



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 27 Medicine
- 35 Nursing
- 80 Health Professions
- 14 Dentistry
- 18 Pharmacy
- 6 Optometry
- 11 Veterinary Medicine
- 135 Agriculture
- 96 Engineering
- 31 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 36 teachers
- 6.6% of all district teachers
- 3 principals and administrators
- 9.4% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 114 students
- 663 alumni
- 26 employees

UMKC

- 32 students
- 120 alumni
- 0 employees

Missouri S&T

- 26 students
- 57 alumni
- 2 employees

UMSL

- 7 students
- 27 alumni
- 0 employees



County population: 43,205



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 5,089 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$3.3 million of uncompensated care
- 31 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$52.57 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 1,624 visits to 890 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 8,865 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 1,922 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 5,161 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 1,436 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy



Construction projects

- \$146,271 remitted to 1 county vendor, for 7 projects



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Pettis County

Pettis County



University of Missouri System
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In FY23, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 98,527 jobs.

\$3.1
billion

For every dollar invested from 2019 to 2021, the MU Extension Business Development Program has returned \$133 in economic impact for its clients by increasing sales more than \$1.6 billion. For a total impact of \$3.1 billion, the program has generated more than 37,000 jobs and attracted nearly \$451 million in capital investments and \$1.5 billion in government contracts.

- Between FY18 and FY23, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.58 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY24, UM System was issued 29 patents and filed 69 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY24, the UM System awarded 707 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$287.3 million in the state.



In FY24, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 16,687 hrs of case-based instruction to 3,113 learners located in 105 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

Education and Training Provided



40,542 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2023)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 369,077 farmers and related businesses (2023)

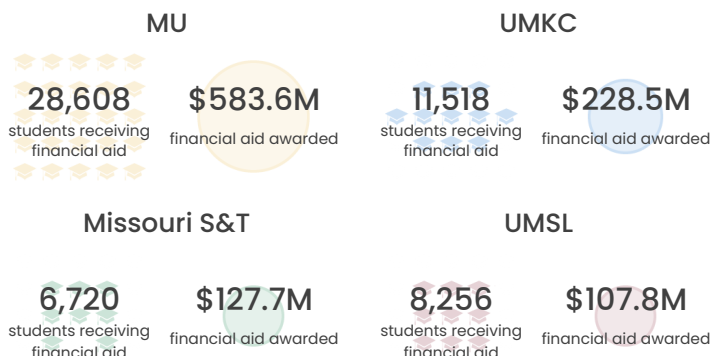


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

Education Highlights

FY24 Financial Aid Awards

In FY24, 69.7% of the UM System's 79,014 students received financial aid totaling \$1.048 billion



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 484 K-12 school districts (830,000 students) and 134 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2023.

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 31,689 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2023-24.
- UM System awarded 35.0% of the 1,776 research doctorates and 26.8% of the 3,796 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2023-24.
- In FY24, UM System's \$30.7 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 96.9% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- In 2024, over 12,400 Missourians accessed mobroadband.org, part of the UM System Broadband Initiative which helped the statewide build-out of high-speed internet infrastructure.

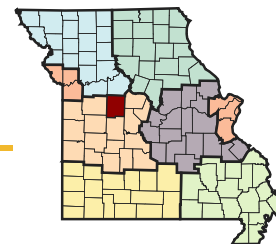
Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

The university advances Missouri citizens and communities through its mission of teaching, research, public service, and economic development across our four campuses and University of Missouri Extension.

Prepared in December 2024, based on the best available and most recent data. Data Sources include: Missouri Office of Administration • UM IR • MU Institute for Public Policy • Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES) • MU • UMKC • Missouri S&T • UMSL • UM System • UM Health Care • MU Extension • US Census Bureau • US Dept. of Health and Human Services • National Science Foundation



Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions



PETTIS COUNTY

Knowing Missouri's Needs

MU Extension asked Missourians to share the greatest challenges they and their communities face.

We heard that feedback and made big changes in the way we work with council and local partners to improve lives. Locally, a network of county engagement and subject matter specialists now share MU's knowledge, research and engagement, targeting programs, information and assistance in:

- agriculture and environment
- youth and family
- business and community
- health and safety

For each grand challenge, MU Extension and Engagement targets a specific gain by 2023:



Economic opportunity

Increase MU Extension and Engagement's economic impact to the State of Missouri from \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion overall, and from \$88 billion to \$100 billion in agriculture, the top economic sector



Educational access and excellence

Increase participation in postsecondary education from 66% to 70%



Health and well-being

Improve Missouri's health ranking from 40th to 35th in the nation

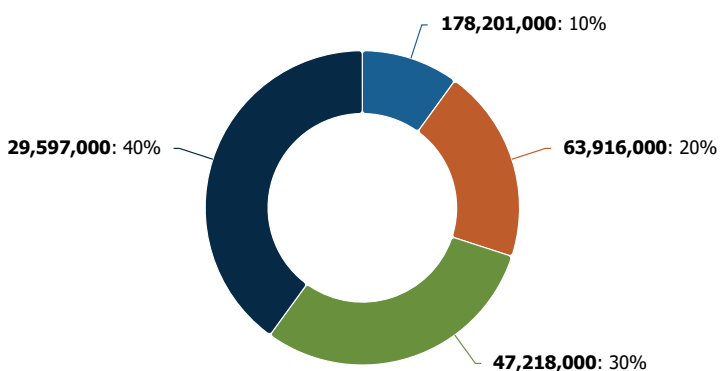
Knowing Local Challenges



CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: Agricultural Economics

Leading Agricultural Products

Total Rank (Sales): \$10



Net Farm Income

Net farm income (total sales, government payments, and other farm-related income minus total farm expenses) reflects the strength of the local agricultural community and can be an important measure for lenders and policy makers. The report area had a combined net farm income of \$121,054,000 in 2017, an average of \$113,559 per farm. This compares favorably to the statewide average farm income of \$56,606.

Report Area	Total Farms	Average Farm Income
Pettis	1,066	\$113,559
Missouri	87,887	\$56,606

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2022.

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2022.



CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *Early Childhood Education*

Access to Early Childhood Education

Head Start is an early childhood education program for at-risk children through age 5. Families utilizing Head Start have better success meeting developmental goals and achieving economic stability. In 2018, there were 4 Head Start programs in the report area, or 14.21 per 10,000 population. Access to head start is higher in this area than in the state.

Head Start Programs, Rate (Per 10,000 Children Under Age 5)

14.21

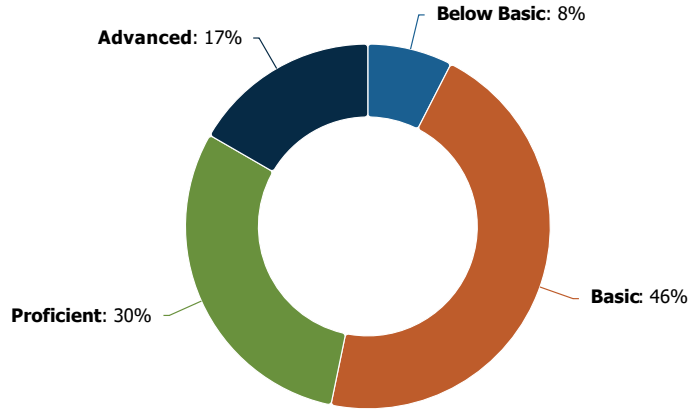
Missouri 13.13

Pettis

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, [HRSA - Administration for Children and Families](#). 2024.

English Language Arts Proficiency

Starting in the 4th grade, public schools emphasize proficiency in reading and reading comprehension. The ability to comprehend becomes the foundation to find and process information in later years and it is important to prevent children from falling behind. Of the 525.00 fourth graders tested in 2018, the known total number of students who had a basic level of English Language Arts was 225.00. The number tested as below basic was 37.00, basic was 225.00, proficient was 148.00, and advanced was 82.00.



Data Source: [Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education](#). 2022.



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Mental Health*

Deaths of Despair

Untreated mental health conditions, substance abuse, and stress have caused an epidemic of "deaths of despair" across the United States. Research shows that deaths due to suicide, alcohol-related disease, and drug overdose have caused the first decreases in U.S. life expectancy in the 21st century. Within the report area there were an estimated 112 deaths of despair, or 36.75 deaths per 100,000 population between 2011 and 2017. This rate is lower than the state rate of 52.01 per 100,000, and represents an decrease of -0.22% since the 2001-2007 report period.

Mortality Rate, 2014-2020

36.75

Missouri

52.01 😞

Pettis



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [CDC - National Vital Statistics System](#). Accessed via [CDC WONDER](#). 2014-20.

Poor Mental Health Days

Self-reported mental health status is a widely used measure of health-related quality of life. In 2018, adults in the report area averaged of 5.7 mentally unhealthy days per month, which is higher than the state average of 5.3. This measure of mental health status has worsened since 2014, when adults in the report area averaged 4.5 mentally unhealthy days per month.

Average Poor Mental Health Days per Month, 2018

5.7

Missouri

5.3 😞

Pettis



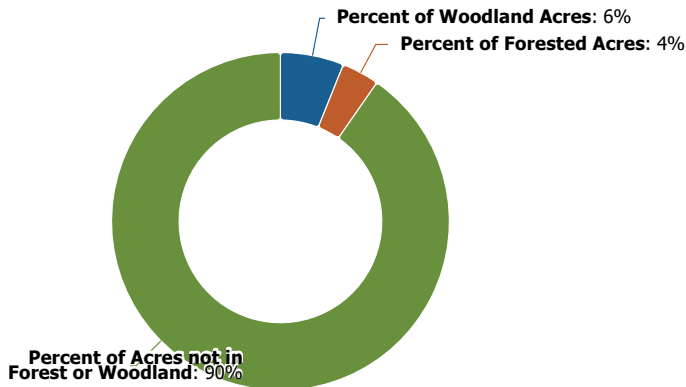
Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Accessed via [County Health Rankings](#). 2021.



CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship: Resource Management

Forested, Woodland & Non-forested Acres

Sustainable management of forests and woodlands and harvesting of mature trees support the state's \$10.3 billion forest products industries. Forests have a closed canopy (>80% cover) permitting little light to penetrate to the ground below. They consist of several overlapping layers of trees, with a mid-story and understory comprising a variety of shade-tolerant shrubs and a sparse layer of soft-stemmed plants. Woodlands have a more open canopy (30-80% cover), and their sparse, woody mid-story allows more sunlight to reach the ground. This light permits the growth of a dense ground cover containing a variety of wildflowers, grasses and sedges. Fire plays a large role in maintaining woodland habitats.



Data Source: Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium, [National Land Cover Database](#).

Rotational Grazing

A planned rotational grazing system allows time for vegetation to rest and recover before being grazed again. In 2017, nearly 16,000 Missouri farms reported practicing rotational or management-intensive grazing. With 11 million acres of row crops and nearly 2 million grazing livestock animals (mainly cattle), Missouri is well suited to capitalize on the grazing potential of cover crops. In addition to generating more income, grazing cover crops can have a positive impact on soil health. Manure, hoof action and the root responses that grazing elicits stimulate soil biological activity and lead to healthier soil and healthier crops.

Percent of Operations Utilizing Rotational Grazing



Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2022.



Local Impact



Century Farm

In 1976, the Centennial Farm project was initiated in Missouri to award certificates to persons owning farms that had been in the same family for 100 years or more.

Interest in the program continued, with the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and University of Missouri Extension planning a 10-year update in 1986 called the Century Farm program.

This program has continued to grow, resulting in it becoming a yearly event with over 100 farms recognized throughout the state each year.

This year Pettis County recognized 3 farms.

Thierfelder Family Farms 1922
Melvin & Joann Thierfelder

Wagenknecht Farms 1908
M Lynn & Patty Wagenknecht

Taylor Farms 1919
Bill & Penny Taylor



Missouri State Fair Farm Family

Farm families were nominated by University of Missouri Extension and Missouri Farm Bureau to represent all 114 counties in Missouri plus St. Louis City. Farm Family Day is sponsored and supported by Missouri Farm Bureau, University of Missouri Extension, the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the Missouri State Fair, and the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources.

Pettis County was represented by Dwight and Marlene Schroder, in 2024. For years the Schroders have sat on the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Committee, with Marlene having served as the Secretary. Not only do they sponsor the show but can be seen cheering on the Pettis County 4-H/FFA Youth with their presence on show days and at the sale.





MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs

Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



Community clubs are organized by volunteer club leaders and teams of recognized volunteers. Members attend club meetings, elect officers, enroll in projects and plan learning and community service activities. Some clubs opt to be single-project clubs, where all members focus on the same project.



4-H In-school clubs meet during the school day. Members participate in projects that supplement their existing lessons. Clubs may meet for short periods or span the full 4-H program year. Members can elect officers and plan learning activities with options of public speaking, community service and links to career readiness.



4-H Natural Resources programs employ hands-on activities in climate science, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, sportfishing and wildlife conservation. The **Shooting Sports program**, which teaches marksmanship, safe firearm use, hunting and archery principles, is a prime illustration of how 4-H programs promote holistic youth development and responsible citizenship. Supported by caring adult leaders, these programs offer opportunities to cultivate life skills, self-worth and conservation ethics.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Pettis County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact



Pettis County 4-H Community Club Leadership

Adam Gerke, Cindy Gerke, Sharon Bruner, Kay Sparks, Rhiannon Birdwell, Natalie Reed, Sharon Hutcheson, Jessica Elwell, Brad Elwell and Amy Close. Missing from the image are Michael Arnett, Brandy Arnett and Brandy Burkhalter.

4-H Community Clubs

Pettis County 4-H clubs offer long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, project mastery, public speaking and working with others. Members learn by doing under the guidance of adult volunteers, who teach projects ranging from computers science, and arts and crafts to animal science and healthy living. Clubs also involve youth in community service, camping and educational trips.

4-H Participants = 125 Youth in 8 Community Clubs across Pettis County

4-H members were supported by 73 adult Volunteers, spending an average of 100 hours each

6 Clubs received Community Service Club Awards Seals with a total of 2208 hours of Community Service combined with an average of 47 service hours per member.

PURPLE SEAL – 39 average service hours, Dresden 4-H Club; 26 average service hours, Muddy Creek 4-H Saddle Club; and 12 average service hours, Ringen Brushy 4-H Club

RED SEAL– 6 hours of service per member, Brown 4-H Club

WHITE SEAL - 1 hour average service hours per member for each Pettis Co. 4-H Shooting Sports Spin Club and Beaman Arator 4-H Club

Pettis County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact



Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame

Individuals who have created exceptional legacies of volunteer service and dedication to Missouri 4-H are recognized and honored with membership in the Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame.

Sharon Bruner, Co-Club Leader for Dresden 4-H Club was awarded the Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame Award this year. She has been a 4-H volunteer for 32 years. Leading projects for Cake Decorating, Sewing, Quilting and more.



Friends of 4-H

This award is given to someone in our community who might not be currently active in 4-H but still believes in our vision to guide our youth and make the best better.

This year, we are honored the Pettis County Commissioners Office for their support of the Pettis County Extension Council and for graciously promoting 4-H Week each year with an official County Proclamation.

Thank you to Jim Marcum, Israel Baeza, Bill Taylor and the staff of the Commissioner's Office.

Pettis County Achievement Days Contest Night

Youth from across the County participated in Conference Judging for their completed projects. This activity instills confidence and allows youth to explain the skills they have learned throughout the year. Projects are awarded ribbons and selected to represent Pettis County at the Missouri State Fair.

46 Youth with 113 projects from 32 different project areas

53 Projects were taken to the MO State Fair

5 Youth gave Demonstrations at the MO State Fair

2 Clover Kids (5-7-year-olds) gave Demonstrations at the MO State Fair

1 Youth gave a prepared speech at the 4-H Horse Public Speaking and Demonstration in Columbia

1 Youth participated in the Show-Me 4-H Wares at the MO State Fair



Pettis County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

Pettis County 4-H Shooting Sports Spin Club



4-H Shooting Sports is a youth development educational program. It uses the skills and disciplines of shooting to assist young people and their leaders in obtaining knowledge and developing skills. Development of skills within the discipline of shooting and "life skills" is implicit in the program curriculum and explicitly stated for volunteers. It appeals to young people and volunteers from a wide range of urban and rural backgrounds. 4-H Shooting Sports promotes positive youth-adult interaction, safety, and peer leadership. 32 Youth were enrolled in Pettis County Shooting Sports Projects.

ARPA Summer Enrichment Program Grant

The grant funds allowed Johnson, Cass, Henry and Pettis counties to both develop new partnerships and strengthen already existing ones. Pettis County was able to strengthen their programming with the library and Boys and Girls Club. There is the potential for expanding programming with the libraries through the backpack program this fall. Pettis County will continue to do programming with Boys and Girls Club through the SNAC program and some STEM programming.

59 Youth from Pettis County participated in this program, attending ten sessions at Boonslick Regional Library and ten sessions through the Boys & Girls Club.



Embryology (Hatching Chicks in the Classroom)

Embryology has a long history in Pettis County of over 25 years. Embryology is an in-school enrichment program that allows local youth to learn the chick life cycle with a hands-on experience. We had three different sessions starting in March and running until mid-May with participation of:

9 Locations; 30 classrooms; 638 youth

Pettis County 4-H Dog Show

Youth from Pettis and the surrounding counties competed at the Pettis County 4-H Dog Show. This show is hosted at Mutts, Manners, and More in Windsor, MO and features classes from obedience to agility and nose tracking. Youth also take part in a costume contest with their dogs.



Pettis County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

Pettis County 4-H Jr. Livestock Show and Sale, July 14th and 15th, 2024

Pettis County 4-H partners with the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Committee and County FFA Advisors to provide an opportunity for youth to show livestock from their project areas. Local Sponsors also donate time and money to make the show, sale and dinner possible.

65 Youth with 168 entries from 7 different counties participated with:

40 Beef	5 Bucket Calves
39 Meat Goats	34 Swine
32 Poultry	11 Rabbits
9 Dairy Goats	38 Sheep



The Pettis County Jr. Livestock Sale was held Monday, July 15, 2024 at the Swine Pavilion on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. Thirty-nine youth participated in the sale. Thanks to the generosity of the buyers, the sale's total was \$ 80,752. Ninety-eight percent of all proceeds went directly to the youth to support their market livestock projects.



Awards Night was held Monday, July 29th, 2024 at the Pettis County Extension Center. Ringen Brushy 4-H Club was awarded the 4-H Club with the most animal participation.

Rate of Gain

Beef – Hunter Arnett (2.99), 2nd place Reagan Sneed (2.92)
Meat Goat – Loralie Strange (0.44), 2nd Loralie Strange (0.42)
Market Lambs – Harley Balke (0.81), 2nd Addilynn Rugen (0.75)

Pettis County 4-H/FFA Horse Show

Working in a partnership with the Pettis County Horse Committee, 4-H exhibitors from across the state can compete in classes ranging from Showmanship to Equitation and Trail Riding.

This year, 36 Youth from 9 different counties competed at the Missouri State Fairgrounds.



Pettis County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

SNAC (Student Nutrition Advisory Council) - Kids in the Kitchen

4-H Student Nutrition Advisory Council clubs are offered via in school, or before/after school programs and in other community settings helping youth become more knowledgeable about nutrition and fitness. Youth are encouraged to become ambassadors of Healthy Living in their community and will design and implement a leadership project that will improve nutrition education or fitness of others. Kids in the Kitchen is a curriculum that encourages youth to eat healthier meals and snacks as a result of hands-on cooking experiences. Students experience fun educational activities which help them understand the value of eating from all the food groups, participate in physical activities and learn safe food handling practices in each of the lessons.

8 sessions at Applewood Christian School with Jr. High Students
8 sessions at The Teen Site with Boys & Girls Club
25 program graduates



Boys & Girls Club members with their cookbooks

College and Career Pathways

This year, Pettis County was fortunate enough to receive the Patterson Grant which funds additional education for students grades 6-12 on College and Career Pathways. The 4-H Youth Futures Program is a component of this additional education. The mission of Youth Futures is to help youth identify and aspire to reach personal postsecondary goals based on their strengths and values and to expand accessibility to the paths leading to such goals. The Youth Futures Program was implemented in LaMonte School and Applewood Christian School. There was a total of 57 youth involved in the program in 2024.

A teacher stated, "Through the implementation of the Youth Futures Program, it has created opportunities for our middle school students to expose them to a multitude of career possibilities, as well as providing them with guidance towards teamwork, communication, and planning for their futures."



La Monte middle school students participating in career exploration training



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**
 through credible statewide programs
Agriculture and Environment



The Missouri Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program

strives to enhance beef herd reproductive efficiency, boost farm income and establish dependable sources of quality replacement cows in Missouri. The program brings in the power of animal genomics through an enhanced DNA-option, Show-Me-PLUS.



Since its inception more than **900 FARMS** have enrolled, with an estimated statewide impact of **\$200 MILLION.**



“A lot of veterans come right out of the service and may feel disconnected and may be struggling with finding job opportunities. The Heroes to Hives program offers a diversion as well as opportunities.”

Eric Work, Heroes to Hives participant



Heroes to Hives

offers free professional training in beekeeping to veterans, promoting financial and personal wellness through community development. Missouri’s Heroes to Hives group has trained more than 1,200 veterans since 2021. It is the nation’s largest agriculture training program for U.S. military service members.



The Missouri Master Gardener program

enables people of all ages to get in-depth horticultural training and then apply what they’ve learned to improve their communities and educate others about gardening.



In 2023, almost 4,000 Missouri Extension Master Gardeners completed over 149,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS throughout the state.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Pettis County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Missouri Agricultural Extension Professionals (MAEP) Ag Leadership Award

Maplewood Acres Farm, Mr. Matt and Dr. Jennifer Boatright, were nominated by Gene Schmitz and Amie Breshears for the 2024 Missouri Agricultural Extension Professionals (MAEP) 'Agriculture Leadership Award' for the State of Missouri. The award was presented at the annual MAEP meeting in Columbia.

Jennifer and Matt Boatright have demonstrated leadership as dedicated supporters of MU Extension programming efforts, educational opportunities, and outreach for many years. As Council members, partners, fundraisers, and goodwill ambassadors, Jennifer and Matt have been critical to the success of MU Extension. Jennifer is serving her second consecutive 2-year term as a member of the Pettis County MU Extension Council. During her time on the Council, she has served as Council Treasurer and has also served on several Council committees.

The Boatrights have generously partnered with MU Extension by hosting multiple Grazing Schools, Pasture Walks, and other MU Extension educational events at their farm over the years. They have also hosted the MU School of Medicine Rural Scholars Program 'Rural Immersion Tour' at their farm and supported MU Extension Ag Outlook meetings. Further, they have been generous sponsors of the Pettis County MU Extension Council funding and fundraising efforts, including the yearly fundraiser dinner.

In recognition of their contributions to MU Extension, Jennifer and Matt Boatright were selected as the 2017 Farm Family of the Year for Pettis County and the MU Extension Leaders Honor Roll in 2020. Their leadership has been imperative for the success of MU Extension.

Pettis County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



Heroes to Hives – Heroes to Hives is a statewide program offered through Michigan Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS) and University of Missouri Extension that seeks to address financial and personal wellness of veterans through professional training and community development centered around beekeeping. It features online training through MIFFS coupled with hands-on training from University of Missouri Extension at our teaching apiaries in Warrensburg, Mt. Vernon, Poplar Bluff and St. Louis. More than 1200 veterans from across Missouri have participated in the program with numerous participants coming from Pettis County.

Feedlot School

Twenty producers from 10 Missouri counties and 2 states attended the 2-day Feedlot School in Boonville, MO. Participants learned information on the following topics: Why Feed Cattle in Missouri; Feedlot Performance Expectations; Fat Cattle Marketing; MU Extension Feedlot Budgets; Health Management; Beef Handling, Facilities, and Stockmanship; Diet Formulation; Starting Cattle on Feed & Bunk Management; Feeding Technologies; Feed Mixing Demonstration. In addition, two farm tours were held and one industry representative discussed future cattle harvesting facilities in Missouri. Evaluation comments included the following: Very informative class; Best one I've been to - would recommend to everyone; Great tours, very good speakers/material, good info; Lots of great information.



Day 2 Feedlot School producer tour.



PaddockTrac Sensor Yield Estimation Research

Regional specialists continued working with MU faculty to harvest native warm season grass plots with the goal to develop PaddockTrac forage yield estimates for native warm season grass species. Samples were collected from NWSG plots at University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg and Hundley-Whaley Extension & Education Center at Albany, MO. Additionally, forage samples were collected periodically to monitor forage quality of NWSG throughout the growing season.

PaddockTrac sensor calibration harvest on native warm season grass plots at UCM-Warrensburg.

Pettis County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



General Programming

Gene Schmitz had over 4,700 direct and indirect contacts through 10/31/24. These have come from 38 different counties across Missouri. This does not include counties in SW MO that were reached through newsletters and media, nor other counties throughout the state reached through state-wide media commercial publications.

Drought or abnormally dry conditions continued through parts of the 2024 growing season, though not as severe as the previous two growing seasons. Beef cattle feeding and pasture and forage management were the focus of many of these contacts and media efforts due to ongoing weather challenges.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training— Private Pesticide Applicator Training teaches producers how to safely store, handle, and use restricted-use pesticides in agricultural production. Proper application of pesticides results in greater safety for both the applicator and their neighbors. Proper application of pesticides results in reduced exposure of pesticides to the environment, ultimately leading to safer living conditions for all Missourians. Approximately 35 Pettis County residents received a license in 2024. There are currently 212 active private pesticide applicators in Pettis County.



Soil Testing – More than 114 soil samples representing more than 2,200 acres were submitted through the Pettis County Extension office for analysis at University of Missouri Extension's soil testing laboratory. Soil sampling provides Pettis County's forage and row crop producers with an accurate analysis of exactly what is in their soil and provides them with recommended fertilizer application rates for the crop they are trying to grow. Pettis County's agronomist reviews the soil sample results with the producers, fine-tuning the recommendations for their particular situation and needs. Soil sampling and accurate fertilizer application increases crop production, reduces input cost, maximizes profit, and reduces the environmental impact of fertilizer loss from fields through leaching and runoff.



Pettis County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

STATE-WIDE HORTICULTURE PROGRAMS

HORTICULTURE TOWN HALL

MU Extension specialists address lawn, garden, disease and insect questions during the free hour-long virtual session every week. Listeners submit questions and hear brief sessions on opportune gardening topics.

GARDEN SPADE NEWSLETTER

Over a 1000 residents receive the monthly horticulture newsletter. MU specialist contribute timely articles addressing topics pertaining to the home gardener.



The group meets monthly and received 205 hours in continuing and/or advanced education from MU Extension specialists on a variety of gardening topics.

The Show-Me Master Gardeners of Pettis County have 29 active master gardeners, 12 of which have emeritus status.

We manned a question & answer booth during the Ag-Expo in February. We held 12 classes during the Expo on the following subjects; Planting Trees, Pruning, Blueberries, Bog Gardening and Butterflies. The classes were provided by four Master Gardeners.

Every Saturday, for six hours, beginning in March through mid May, 11 Show-Me Master Gardeners set up and ran a question & answer booth at Sutherlands' Spring Early bird sales event.

The annual Show-Me Master Gardeners held their fundraiser plant sale on May 13th, 2024. A great many plants were sold along with books and other items.

The Master Gardeners also worked the FFA building during the fair, judging the exhibits of the participating students. Seven Master Gardeners judged.

Pettis County Show-Me Master Gardeners set up and ran the question & answer booth at the Missouri State fair in the Floriculture building. Over 8,500 sheets of information were given out.

One Master Gardener gave nine educational programs at the Home Ec. Building on the Consumer Showcase stage during the Missouri State Fair. Several horticulture topics were covered from Rose Bushes to pruning trees, blueberries to moles.

Show-Me Master Gardeners maintained three gardens this year; Katy Depot, Liberty Statue at the Pettis County Courthouse and the new Library garden at State Fair Community College.

Pettis County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

The Hotline received and answered 65 calls from around the United States. Show-Me Master Gardeners reported making over 700 new contacts.



The Show Me Master Gardeners were at the market every Tuesday to answer your yard and garden questions. 300 stopped by to take advantage of their expertise!



Little Sprouts at the Market

Once a month, May to October, the Show-Me Master Gardeners present programs for the children that attend the Sedalia Farmers Market at the Missouri State Fairgrounds.



From tree rings to bugs to the colors of the food rainbow. The Master Gardeners shared their knowledge with the kids. Twice this year the kids were able to participate in a scavenger hunt around the market trying to find the produce pictured on the list. 273 Little Sprouts made placemats, thumb print bugs, and took home a tree slice cookie and a sapling to plant.



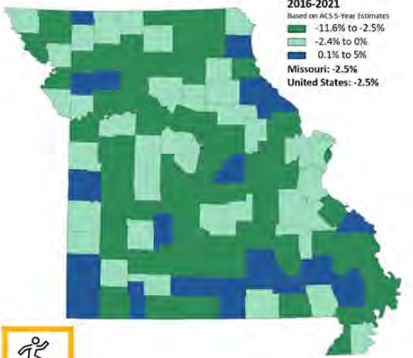


MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Business and Community**



The annual **Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities** conference is designed for stakeholders, economic developers, businesses, local government, educators and nonprofits interested in increasing their communities' potential for entrepreneurship. In 2023, the conference offered breakout sessions in Benton County's shops and businesses, providing firsthand insight into the world of entrepreneurial communities.

The 2023 conference drew **104 ATTENDEES**, generating an estimated initial economic impact of around **\$33,000 FOR BENTON COUNTY**.



The **Missouri Economy Indicators (MEI)** series explores business, industry and workforce topics that affect Missouri's economy. The data is shared through newsletters and on social media. MU Extension faculty and staff receive talking points and collateral to share with local stakeholders.

In 2022, MEI published 15 issues, and MEI online resources were accessed MORE THAN 5,000 TIMES. Two out of five MEI newsletter recipients reported using the information to help guide policy or decision-making in their work.

AMERICA'S **SBDC** MISSOURI **CLIENT HIGHLIGHT**



LOGS
— OF —
GLORY

The **Missouri Small Business Development Centers** (SBDC) provide professional training and customized one-on-one counseling to small businesses across the state. Working with the Missouri SBDC helps business owners make confident decisions.

FY2020-2022, Missouri SBDC ASSISTED 878 STARTUPS and helped Missouri small businesses earn more than \$440 MILLION.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Pettis County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Farm Management – On My Own

A brand-new offering in 2024, 'Farm Management – On My Own' helped female landowners and operators understand ag leases and farmland values, rental rates, and custom work costs. The program debuted in the spring and summer of 2024 with an in-person class offered in 8 counties in the West Central Region. Because of updated farmland values and rental rates survey data, as well as positive evaluation response, another round of programs, both in-person and online, was offered in the fall of 2024 and will continue into the spring of 2025. I created the program in response to questions I was getting from female landowners about their farmland and farm operations.



Farmland Values (\$ per Acre)

	Cropland				Pastureland		F
	Irrigated	Good	Average	Poor	Good	Average	
State Average	10,214	8,524	6,996	5,556	5,687	5,043	4
Northwest	11,037	8,915	6,874	5,244	5,409	4,735	3
North Central	10,333	8,167	6,135	5,013	4,663	4,400	3
North East	12,833	9,912	7,906	6,396	6,415	5,756	5
West	8,933	8,202	7,140	6,048	6,215	5,444	4
Central	9,636	7,863	6,830	5,422	5,848	5,254	4
East	11,689	10,988	9,249	7,253	7,056	5,999	5
Southwest	5,531	5,650	4,563	3,906	4,320	3,883	3
South Central	6,688	6,194	5,203	4,219	4,547	3,776	3
Southeast	10,658	9,694	8,094	5,583	5,625	4,950	3
Urban Area	22,833	13,833	11,750	9,625	9,389	8,556	7

By the numbers:

- 64 registrants
- 100% would recommend the program to others
- 3 presenters
- 4 states represented – Missouri, Florida, Minnesota, Wisconsin
- 19 Missouri counties represented – Adair, Benton, Boone, Buchanan, Callaway, Cass, Cedar, Cooper, Douglas, Greene, Henry, Jackson, Johnson, Moniteau, Pettis, Polk, St. Clair, Saline, Vernon
- 11 West Central Region counties represented - Benton, Cass, Cedar, Cooper, Henry, Johnson, Moniteau, Pettis, Polk, St. Clair, Vernon

Pettis County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Extension Tax Schools

University of Missouri Extension ag economics department and ag business specialists worked together to coordinate one summer and three fall tax schools. The summer school was in person and live online. Fall schools were in Columbia and Springfield and one online school. The schools were designed for those who prepare taxes including enrolled agents, tax preparers, CPAs, individuals, and attorneys.

The training included updates on legislation, rulings and cases, individual taxpayer issues, agricultural and natural resources topics, ethics, trusts and estates, agriculture and natural resource tax issues, business tax issues, business entity tax issues, IRS issues, related party issues, real estate rental activity issues, limited liability company issues, and international tax issues. Total continuing education hours reported to IRS for the schools was 3,776 hours. Pettis County had three participants.



SBDC Pettis County Impact

Cumulative Period Start: 10/1/2023	
Current Period Start: 10/1/2023	
Scorecard End: 9/30/2024	
Pettis County	
Data Elements	Value
Capitalization	\$860,876.00
Sales Increase	\$943,062.00
New Businesses Started	12
\$ of Contract Awards	\$219,332.37
# of Contract Awards	6
Jobs Created	40
Jobs Retained	373
Unique Clients Served	125
Number of Clients Counseled	134
Number of Training Event Attendees	299



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Health and Human Sciences**



Mental Health First Aid equips people to recognize and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use challenges.

Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people (ages 12-17) facing mental health or addition challenges while the adult version focuses on adults aged 18 and older. Participants learn how to offer initial assistance and guide individuals toward the care they need.

In Missouri, approximately 1 MILLION ADULTS and 72,000 ADOLESCENTS suffer from MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.*

*Missouri Department of Mental Health 2020 Status Report



Building Strong Families

Studies show that people with strong family bonds tend to have lower stress levels. Building Strong Families helps families deal with disagreements, manage stress and show their love for one another.



Policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes encourage residents to improve community health by making healthy choices easier and more accessible. Residents design strategies around local needs, assets, and interests.

HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY leaders decided pantry clients needed access to healthier foods. Review of food procurement and display practices led to a new policy allocating **\$1,000** of pantry discretionary spending for **LOW-FAT DAIRY OR FRESH PRODUCE.**

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Pettis County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories

Empowering Youth Through Resilience

Across Missouri, **713 youth** developed leadership and life skills through programs like Heit's Point Summer Camp and YMCA activities. A camp counselor noted, *"The kids learned how to work together and express their emotions constructively. It's amazing to see their growth."* These programs not only teach valuable skills but also foster resilience and teamwork, preparing youth for future success.



"I didn't know I had so many good things about me. This activity made me feel proud of myself."
 -third-grader YMCA, Kids and Self-Esteem 2024

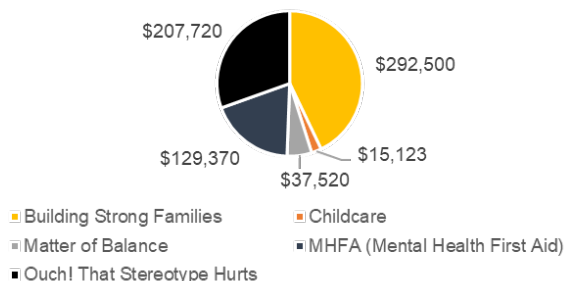


"This training gave me the tools to support a colleague during a mental health emergency. I feel more confident in my ability to help." – anonymous MHFA participant, Callaway County, 2024

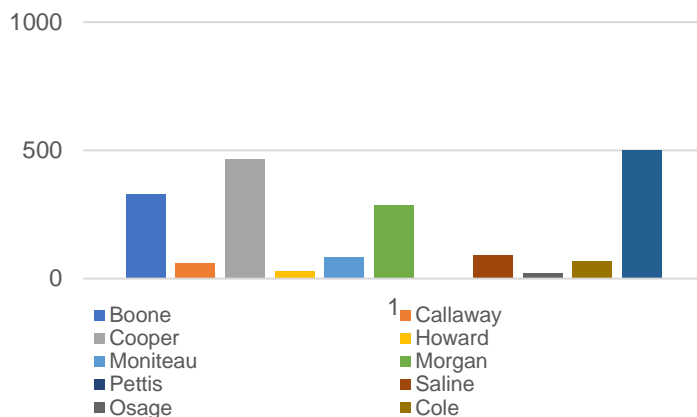
Promoting Mental Wellness

By equipping 190 participants with skills to recognize and respond to mental health crises, **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)** strengthened workplaces and community support systems across Missouri. One participant shared, *"This training gave me the confidence to help someone in need."* These efforts created a ripple effect of resilience and well-being, with an estimated economic impact of **\$32,300**, fostering healthier, more connected communities.

Economic Impact by Program 2024



Participants By County 2024



Pettis County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories



Stay Strong Stay Healthy

I have successfully taught multiple Stay Strong Stay Healthy (SSSH) classes. SSSH is weight training program for older adults, where they can improve their strength, balance, flexibility, and coordination. Roughly 74 individuals across multiple classes/counties have participated in the program.

Guest Speaking

I was invited to several colleges and universities to speak to students about Extension, and Nutrition and Health.

The first location was at State Fair Community College in Sedalia Missouri. I spoke to the nursing students about the rise of obesity, and strategies and programs that Extension has available to educate the people in the communities that I serve. The total number of students was about 50 in total.

The second institution was at Missouri State University in Springfield Missouri. I spoke to dietetic students in their community nutrition class about what Extension is, and what I do in my communities. There were 26 students in the class. I have been invited to speak again in the Spring Semester



Sedalia Area Farmers Market

I visited the Sedalia Area farmers market several times this Summer, offering pressure canner testing, and information relating to food preservations, canning, and information about Extension and the programs they offer. One of the events, I worked with one of my Nutrition Program Associates by having samples at our booth. During my time at the farmers market, I was in contact with at least 150 people, who came by to talk, pick up information, or bring their canners for testing/inspections.

Pettis County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2024

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,145,237 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 74,864 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri who learned about being active and healthy eating on a budget. This year we had 1,164,143 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline.

4,447 direct and indirect contacts were made in Pettis County.

Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity, and make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan.

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.



EFNEP Public Value Statement 2024

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) brought \$1,624,777 federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll 559 limited-resource families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing 2,068 family members. Additionally, 2,864 youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes.

513 of these youth and adult participants reside in Pettis County.

Participants in EFNEP learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, trying new foods, increasing their physical activity, and making healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan.

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

